

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-31. **(CANCELED)**

32. **(NEW)** An apparatus for positioning window blinds to be cut, comprising:

- (a) a table having an upper surface;
- (b) a tray fixed to the upper surface of the table;
- (c) a clamping mechanism for holding the window blinds;
- (d) a track fixed to the tray;
- (e) a mount, slidably adjoining and moveable along the track, having a rotatable shaft connected to the clamping mechanism, the rotatable shaft having an axis of rotation parallel to the track; and
- (f) a moveable plunger fixed to the mount for engaging the rotatable shaft and preventing shaft rotation.

33. **(NEW)** The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the track has a terminal end abutting an edge of the table surface and the clamping mechanism is conveyable along the surface of the table to the terminal end.

34. **(NEW)** The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the clamping mechanism comprises:

- (a) a backplate connected to the rotatable shaft;
  - (b) an upper jaw pivotally connected to the backplate and having an upper front plate;
  - (c) a lower jaw pivotally connected to the backplate and having a lower front plate; and
- wherein the upper plate is moveable to a clamp-closed position relative to the lower plate for defining an item-restraining-area between the upper jaw and the lower jaw.

35. **(NEW)** The apparatus of claim 34 further comprising an upper jaw first arm and an upper jaw second arm connecting the upper front plate to the backplate.

36. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the rotatable shaft includes:

- (a) a first hole;
- (b) a second hole positioned on the shaft one-hundred-eighty degrees relative the first hole; and

wherein the first hole is engaged with the plunger for locking the clamping mechanism in a first orientation and the second hole is engaged with the plunger for locking the clamping mechanism in a second orientation one-hundred-and-eighty degrees relative the first orientation.

37. (NEW) A window blind cutting apparatus having:

- (a) a first tray having a planar surface terminating at a planar edge;
- (b) a linear track fixed to the planar surface and having a first terminal and a second terminal, the second terminal proximate the planar edge;
- (c) a mount slidably adjoining the track;
- (d) a clamp having a backplate, an upper jaw, and a lower jaw, wherein the upper jaw and lower jaw are pivotally connected to the backplate and the clamp is rotatably connected to the mount; and

wherein the mount is moveable along the track to a first position proximate the first terminal having the planar surface of the tray obstructing rotation of the clamp and to a second position proximate the second terminal having the clamp positioned beyond the planar edge of the first tray and rotatable about an axis parallel to the planar surface of the first tray.

38. (NEW) The cutting apparatus of claim 37 for use in cutting a blind assembly enclosed in the clamp and having a first edge, further having:

- (a) a table supporting the first tray;
- (b) a cutting apparatus; and
- (c) an alignment assembly for aligning a first edge of the blind assembly with the cutting apparatus.

- 39.     **(NEW)** The cutting apparatus of claim 38 wherein the table has at least one packaging tray for use in packaging the blind assembly.
- 40.     **(NEW)** The cutting apparatus of claim 37 wherein a cylindrical shaft, having at least a first hole, connects the mount to the clamp and the mount comprises a plunger for engagement with the at least first hole.
- 41.     **(NEW)** The cutting apparatus of claim 40 wherein the back plate is connected to the cylindrical shaft.
- 42.     **(NEW)** The cutting apparatus of claim 37 wherein the track comprises one rail.
- 43.     **(NEW)** The cutting apparatus of claim 41 wherein the upper jaw comprises a first unitary U-shaped upper jaw component and the lower jaw comprises a second unitary U-shaped lower jaw component.
- 44.     **(NEW)** The cutting apparatus of claim 37 wherein the clamp comprises at least one latch for releasably securing the upper jaw to the lower jaw in the closed position.

45. **(NEW)** An apparatus for use in securing and positioning window blinds to be cut, comprising:
- (a) a tray;
  - (b) a clamp comprising:
  - (c) a backplate;
  - (d) an upper jaw pivotally connected to the backplate;
  - (e) a lower jaw pivotally connected to the backplate;
  - (f) at least a first latch fixed to the clamp for releasably securing the upper jaw to the lower jaw;
  - (g) a track fixed to the tray;
  - (h) a mount adjoined to and moveable along the track;
  - (i) a shaft secured to the backplate and rotatably connected to the mount; and
- wherein the upper jaw is pivotable to a first position relative the lower jaw for receiving an article and pivotable to a second position relative the lower jaw for securing an article to the apparatus.
46. **(NEW)** The apparatus of claim 45 further comprising a table for supporting the tray and a cutting device fixed to the table.
47. **(NEW)** The apparatus of claim 46 further comprising means for aligning the article relative to the cutting device.
48. **(NEW)** The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the table comprises shelves for supporting the article.
49. **(NEW)** The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the shaft is a telescoping shaft.

50. **(NEW)** The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the article is a plurality of homogeneous items.
51. **(NEW)** The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the table includes pins and channels providing guidance for aligning the items.
52. **(NEW)** A method for cutting window blinds having a first end and a second end opposite the first end, comprising the steps of:
- (a) positioning and aligning the article relative to a cutting apparatus;
  - (b) securing the positioned and aligned article with a clamp at a first location and in a first orientation, the clamp having a backplate, an upper jaw, and a lower jaw, wherein the upper jaw and lower jaw are pivotally connected to the backplate;
  - (c) cutting, with the cutting apparatus, the first end of the article at the first location;
  - (d) moving the clamp to a second location;
  - (e) flipping the clamp and article one-hundred-eighty degrees about a horizontal axis;
  - (f) returning the article to the first location; and
  - (g) cutting the second end of the article with the cutting apparatus.
53. **(NEW)** The method of claim 52 wherein the clamp comprises an upper jaw, a lower jaw, and a latch, further comprising the steps of:
- (a) pivoting the upper jaw from a clamp open position to a clamp closed position relative to the lower jaw; and
  - (b) latching the clamp closed for securing the article.